

**NEWS****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 16, 2009

Florida Keys Mosquito Control

For Info: Coleen Fitzsimmons

(305) 292-7190

www.keysmosquito.org**Controlling Dengue Has To Be a Community Effort**

Two cases of a mosquito-borne disease known as Dengue virus/fever have been confirmed in Key West. A traveler and a resident of Key West have been confirmed with Dengue. Dengue only shows symptoms in about 50% of those people infected, which allows for more unknown transmission in our community. Monroe County is home to the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito which is a strong vector for Dengue.

Dengue is a man-made problem with the *Aedes aegypti* preferring artificial containers, primarily water-holding containers around homes. Due to the heavy rain events, most homeowners are breeding this particular mosquito. Individuals can take simple steps to stop the spread of this virus. After each rain event and at least twice a week, walk around your yard and tip over any water-holding containers.

Mosquito Control is working to eliminate these water-holding containers throughout the Keys and particularly in the area around our confirmed and suspected dengue cases. Besides aerial missions, the adult *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are being trapped and tested for Dengue along with larval samples collected on a daily basis.

To eliminate mosquitoes around your home, remove any standing water. Turn over or remove empty pots, buckets, beverage containers, ashtrays and pet bowls. Check tarps on boats or equipment and replace water in birdbaths. Flush fresh water into bromeliads and hanging plants and call Florida Keys Mosquito Control.

Please call Mosquito Control at 292-7190 for Questions and Service Requests.

END